



KEARSLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Reports

FOR 1919,

BY

J. C. EAMES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

GEORGE WALSH,

Inspector of Nuisances.



ISSUED BY THE
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

MAY, 1920.

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Medical Officer's Report.

BARNFIELD HOUSE,

STONECLOUGH,

NR. MANCHESTER,

MAY 1st, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kearsley District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased my Annual Report on the health of your district for 1919 is a good one, shewing a great improvement on that for 1918. This is not on one point only, but on the three of most importance. They are the Death Rate, the Infantile Mortality Rate, and the Birth Rate. The improvement in the Death Rate is very remarkable, considering the great mortality we had in February and March from Influenza. That in the Infant Mortality I consider chiefly due to the absence of Autumnal Diarrhœa, and to the improved financial condition of the people, they being able to support their children in a more proper manner and to give more time to looking after them. That in the Birth Rate is doubtless due to the termination of the war and to the financial condition. It (the Birth Rate) again is the most influential point in connection with the increase of the number of the population; a matter of vital importance.

On two points, however, which I have advocated for years and annually drawn your attention to, I am sorry to say there has been no improvement. They are the conversion of privy middens into water closets, and the building of new and larger houses. The want of

these has kept back other sanitary measures. It was no good closing houses really unfit for habitation if that measure would make the congestion and overcrowding of the others worse. I believe a large sum of money is now to be spent in building, but would it not be well to devote some of that in the first place to making the unfit fit? A principal factor in these schemes is still the shortage of labour, but surely in that way what there is would be better utilised. It cannot now be said, as it has been for years, that no labour is available, though it is still scarce.

The number of Deaths in your district during 1919 was 149, against 152 in 1918. This gives a rate of 15·9 per 1000 against 17·5. Of these 67 were male and 82 female. This is a remarkable change from ordinary, especially as the male births were 38 more than the female. Influenza was much the highest cause, being responsible for 28, against 17 in 1918. Bronchitis and Pneumonia come next with 24 against 29, Congenital Debility 15 against 8, Heart Disease 14 against 13, Cancer 9 against 10, Violence 5, Phthisis 4 against 7, Nephritis 4 against 6, Diphtheria 3 against 0, Diarrhœa 1 as in 1918, Measles and Scarlet Fever 1 each against 0. None from Enteric Fever or Whooping Cough. All the deaths from Influenza occurred in the first five months, 13 being in February and 10 in March.

The Births were 208, 123 male and 85 female, against 179 in 1918. All but 12 were legitimate, about the usual proportion. This gives a rate of 21·3, against 18·4 in 1918, and an average for the last 10 years of 22·1. In 1885 it was 36. Since then there has been a gradual decline. We must, however, be thankful that a change has at last come.

Taking the Deaths from the Births we get 59, against 27 in 1918, the normal increase of the population.

The Infant Mortality, or proportion of deaths of children under one year to 1,000 births, was 91, against 122 in 1918, and an average for ten years of 143. It is one of the lowest we have had. The causes I have already mentioned, and hope they may continue.

The Zymotic Rate, i.e., the rate due to the seven principal contagious diseases, was '64, against '57 in 1918, and an average for ten years of 1'58. This is very good, being less than half the average. It, too, depends chiefly on the amount of Autumnal Diarrhœa. The Phthisis Rate was only '42, also good; it is generally about double. The Notifications were 210, against 37 in 1918 and 238 in 1917. To Measles is due this great variation, there being epidemics in two years and only two cases in the third. It has only lately been made notifiable, and the order has now been rescinded. 156 cases were notified, but many more occurred, only the first in a house having to be reported. There were also 15 of Scarlet Fever, 12 of Diphtheria, 10 of Influenzal Pneumonia (another new disease in the list), 8 of Tuberculosis, 5 of Erysipelas, and two each of Ophthalmia and Malaria.

Six specimens were sent to Dr. Delepine for examination. Five were of suspected cases of Phthisis, but only one was found positive.

The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Slaughter-houses were found satisfactory by your Nuisance Inspector on his numerous rounds. The Schools also gave no cause for complaint.

Maternity and Child Welfare arrangements have been considered at several meetings, both of your Committee and with the County authorities. It is hoped that as soon as a fit house can be found a Child's Welfare Centre will be started. A County Nurse at present attends the district, and has power to provide milk and other foods for children and expectant mothers who are unable to get them.

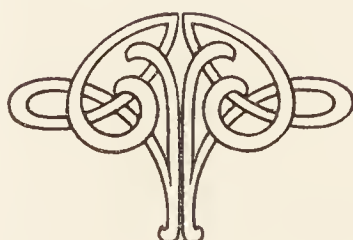
The chief wants of the district are, as they have so long been, the conversion of privy middens to water closets, and the building of larger houses.

This is my thirty-sixth and final Report, and I must once again thank you for your courtesy and kindness during the long time I have held the appointment.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J. C. EAMES.



Kearsley Urban District Council.

Inspector of Nuisances Report.

COUNCIL OFFICE,

KEARSLEY, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kearsley District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Nineteenth and last Annual Report, I wish to state that a large portion of the under-mentioned work has been carried out through my visiting the owners or persons responsible for the sanitary condition of the premises, and pointing out the necessity of the work required to be done. In a great many cases the work has been carried out without the necessity of serving legal notices.

As authorised by the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Water Closets are now required to all new property. In all cases where additional closet accommodation is required for existing houses, Water Closets are being insisted upon.

During the year 163 nuisances of various kinds were remedied. Owing to the shortage of labour, considerable difficulty is experienced in getting work done at the present time.

For particulars of Infectious Diseases refer to the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

I have visited all cases of Infectious Disease reported as early as possible, and given printed and verbal instructions as to the proper means of isolation of the patients; also as to the disinfection of clothing and surroundings, and carried out any instructions of the Medical Officer. At the termination of each case the house was fumigated, and all necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Careful attention has been paid to the drains, privies, and milk supply, and defects found have been remedied.

Food Inspection.

Slaughter Houses, Fish, Fruit, and Butchers' Shops have been regularly inspected

Factories and Workshops.

These have been inspected at intervals, and no cause for complaint was found.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

These have been regularly inspected.

Your obedient servant,

G. WALSH,

Inspector of Nuisances.